

“Joy in the Midst of Religion”
Philippians 3:1-11

“It is not your attitude toward your sins that foul you up; it’s your attitude toward your own goodness.”

Principle: Legalism can destroy your happiness.

“So don’t be too good or too wise! Why destroy yourself?” Ecclesiastes 7:16

Principle: Holiness is from the inside out – legalism is from the outside in.

Principle: A legalist is someone who wants to let his or her conscience be your guide.

Principles from Paul about religion:

1. Paul calls religious people “dogs”.

What is religion? Jesus plus anything.

Principle: Legalism defeats my initiative.

Principle: Legalism damages my relationships.

Principle: Legalism distorts God’s priorities.

2. Paul says that religion is rubbish.

3. Paul says that religious people have a resume.

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” Acts 10:34, 35

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep for that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

“We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as flighty rags.” Isaiah 64:6

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17

How can I have joy in the midst of religion?

R.E.L.A.X.

R – Remember to live every day by grace.

“When we sin and mess up our lives, we find that God doesn’t go off and leave us – he enters into our troubles and saves us.” Eugene Peterson

E – Enjoy God’s love

L – Love God

A – Appreciate what Jesus did for me

X – Exchange my legalism for God's peace

"Are you tired, worn out, burnt out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. And I will show you how to take a real rest. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." Matthew 11:28-30